

DEC 9 1960

Approved For Release 1999/09/17 : CIA-RDP75-0

STATINTL

Adlai on Another Wave Length

Ease of Communication With Chief Is Common Mark of Kennedy Choices

By Chalmers M. Roberts
Staff Reporter

The little drama played on President-elect Kennedy's front step yesterday afternoon was expressive of the new Chief Executive's problem in filling the major posts in his Administration.

Adlai E. Stevenson was being offered the post of U. S. Ambassador to the United Nations but, for reasons that he did not spell out, he hesitated. Mr. Kennedy appeared annoyed.

The simple fact is that the two men are not on the same wave length. This is not due to a difference on policies, though there may be some. The important job offer indicated that Mr. Kennedy was

not holding a political grudge dating back to the Democratic convention or before.

Mr. Kennedy has said privately that he had tried to understand Stevenson, a way of saying that the two men find it difficult to communicate. This is not a problem of policy, but of personality.

As one scans the names of those already appointed by the President-elect, a common thread appears. All of them are of the kind that finds it easy to talk with Mr. Kennedy. This is not just a matter of believing in the same goals or aiming for the same "New Frontier." It is a matter of being able to sit down and chat informally, of coming to

the same conclusion as they talk along.

This is true of the top White House appointments, Theodore Sorenson and Kenneth O'Donnell. It is true also of Governors G. Mennen Williams and Abraham Ribicoff, and of Rep. Stewart Udall.

It is, of course, truest of all in the case of Robert Kennedy. A story from the campaign will illustrate that.

When the Rev. Martin Luther King was jailed in Atlanta just prior to the election, both Senator Kennedy and his brother reached for telephones. The Senator called Mrs. King, his brother called the judge in the case. They

did so at almost the same moment and without any prior consultation with each other, so much do their minds run in the same channel.

Would Choose Brother

It is for reasons such as this that the President-elect would like to have his brother as his Attorney General. In his efforts to fill the top posts at State, Defense and Treasury, a delay has sprung from a lack of candidates with such personal compatibility with the President-elect.

Some Kennedy associates say that the reason C. Douglas Dillon, now Under Secretary

of State and a Republican, is a top contender for the Treasury post is that he had known the President-elect for some years personally and that there exists between them the necessary rapport.

The same can be said, certainly to a large degree, about Rep. Chester Bowles and Prof. Walt W. Rostow, both of whom are probably going to end up in important foreign policy posts.

With Williams already named as an Assistant Secretary of State and with other sympathetic persons lined up for some other State Department posts, it becomes more than ever necessary that the new Secretary of State be in close harmony with Mr. Kennedy.

Criticisms Parallel

If Stevenson is not, what of Sen. J. William Fulbright, who, according to reports as of yesterday, remains the leading contender?

Fulbright publicly supported Senator Kennedy on both the U. S. and American prestige issues during the campaign, but their personal relationship has never been particularly close. Their criticisms of the Eisenhower Administration often have been parallel, however.

It should not be concluded from all this that the President-elect is searching only for men with whom he gets along well. This is the added quality, in addition to competence and energy, for which he is searching. The search has been both exhaustive and lengthy.